

EXTRA LONG STAPLE (ELS) COTTON ANNOUNCEMENT February 16, 2006

The Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced that the competitiveness payment program payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, February 17, 2006, through midnight Thursday, February 23, 2006, is 12.64 cents per pound. The next ELS payment rate announcement will be on February 23, 2006, at 5 p.m., Eastern time.

ELS competitiveness payments are provided whenever, for 4 consecutive weeks, the lowest Friday through Thursday average adjusted price quotation for foreign growths (LFQ) is less than the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for U.S. Pima cotton, C/F Far East (USPFE); and the adjusted LFQ is less than 134 percent of the current crop year loan level for ELS cotton grade 2, staple 46, micronaire 3.5 or higher, strength 37.5 grams per tex and above (82.45 cents per pound).

Relevant data for the ELS competitiveness program follow:

| Fri/Thur | Adjusted | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-------|---------|---------------|
| Period | LFQ as % | USPFE | LFQ | USPFE | Payment | Dates |
| Ending | of ELS | Price | Price | Less | Rate | Applicable |
| | Loan Rate | | | LFQ | | |
| | | | cents/lb | | | |
| 01/26/06 | 131 | 138.80 | 121.76 | 17.04 | | |
| 02/02/06 | 130 | 138.00 | 121.36 | 16.64 | | |
| 02/09/06 | 131 | 136.80 | 121.96 | 14.84 | | |
| 02/16/06 | 131 | 135.00 | 122.36 | 12.64 | 12.64 | (02/17-02/23) |

Adjusted LFQ = LFQ adjusted for transportation differential, 13.56, between the United States and the Far East.

Future payments will be established if price conditions warrant.

To obtain an ELS agreement or to inquire regarding operational issues, please contact Richard Mashek, Kansas City Commodity Office at (816) 823-1134 or by e-mail Richard.Mashek@kcc.usda.gov

Further program information is available from Steve Neff, (202) 720-7954, e-mail steve.neff@usda.gov